U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SENT VIA EMAIL

April 14, 2022

Mr. Steve Poftak
General Manager
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
10 Park Plaza
Boston MA 02116

Subject: Safety Management Inspection

Dear Mr. Poftak,

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is extremely concerned with the ongoing safety issues at the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). FTA leadership recently discussed the pattern of safety incidents with MBTA executive leadership, yet it remains unclear what actions the MBTA Board and executive team are implementing to prevent and address the system's safety violations. In addition to this week's tragic passenger event, there have been several other recent safety issues such as derailments, train collisions, grade crossing fatalities, and incidents that have endangered both MBTA employees and its passengers. As such, at the direction of the FTA Administrator, FTA will immediately assume an increased safety oversight role of the MBTA system.

The safety of MBTA's passengers and workforce is of paramount concern to FTA. Therefore, FTA's Office of Transit Safety and Oversight (TSO) will conduct a Safety Management Inspection (SMI) of the MBTA's transit operations and maintenance programs. The SMI will obtain critical data needed to establish MBTA's safety risk profile and provide a roadmap to building a robust safety culture within your agency. It will also assess the effectiveness and role played by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), the State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) designated to oversee safety at MBTA. The results of the inspection will inform the subsequent safety oversight measures to be taken by the FTA.

For scheduling purposes, please designate an MBTA point-of-contact to coordinate with FTA's personnel on the Safety Management Inspection by 5pm EST Friday, April 15, 2022. FTA intends to deploy personnel to begin the inspection process early next week.

At the meeting we will review the Safety Management Inspection process and scheduling interviews with members of the MBTA and your leadership team. We look forward to your full cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joe DeLorenzo
Associate Administrator and
Chief Safety Officer
Office of Transit Safety and Oversight

cc: Peter Butler, Regional Administrator, FTA Region 1
Elizabeth Cellucci, Director of Transportation Oversight, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
Jamey Tesler, Massachusetts DOT Secretary and Chief Executive Officer
Betsy Taylor, Chair, MBTA Board of Directors
Ronald Ester, Chief Safety Officer, MBTA